

In the north western India, the two well known scripts of ancient India, ~~ver. viz.~~ namely the Brahmi and the Kharoshthi were both fairly in use but it is only the indigenous Brahmi which survived and led to the development of the later Indian alphabets.

The Kharoshthi script went out of use after the third century. <sup>in this section</sup> <sup>confine our study to</sup> So we shall ~~discuss~~ the development of the Brahmi alphabet <sup>of its rise</sup> from the earliest known period till the evolution of the Sharada alphabet from this script in the 9th century.



In The seventh edict has been comparatively engraved hurriedly and the letters show cursive forms.

The following features deserve notice.

1. The curves at the left end of a show sometimes greater bend
2. kh shows a dot at the bottom of a bent vertical
3. Dh has a spiral form
4. The letter t shows only two strokes instead of usual three, the longer one sloping downwards to the left and the shorter to the right.
5. In y the two side vertical curves are sometimes unusually elongated upwards.

### The Pathyar Inscription

✓ The Pathyar inscription consists of two lines cut into one stone. ~~The letters are of considerable size, the last one being not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  high.~~ The characters of the inscription correspond entirely to those of the Ashokan edicts and do not display any significant peculiarities except that the lower parts of the letters are much smaller in size as compared to their long verticals.

~~The~~ The last phase of the Brahmi alphabet of the Maurya period is represented by an inscription discovered from Kankali Tilla in Mathura by George Birkler and assigned by him on palaeographic grounds to 2nd century B.C. The letters show forms which are later than those of the Ashokan inscriptions but decidedly earlier than those used in the records of the post Maurya period. The following developments are noteworthy.

1. The letters are more rounded in shape.
2. The verticals used in the letters <sup>now</sup> ~~are~~ are smaller in size.
3. The curves of medial i and e are elongated.
4. The small triangles in place of usual circles in m and v are noteworthy.



## §. The Kalsi Rock-edicts

The Kalsi edicts are engraved on a rock situated at Kalsi a village in the Chakrata tehsil of the <sup>Garhwal</sup> Dehra Dun district of Uttaranchal. The letters mostly show cursive forms. The following peculiarities deserve notice.

1. The left limb of initial a is sometimes represented by a small vertical or a curved line attached to the right hand vertical by means of a small horizontal bar, e.g., Ed. XIII, l. 38, Ed. XIII, l. 39.
2. k has a dagger like form but also shows sometimes a highly cursive form, e.g., Ed. XIII, l. 39
3. The letter kh has a big round loop at the bottom e.g., Ed. XIV, l. 21
4. ch has sometimes a peculiar shape. It consists of two circles with a small vertical line standing on the point of contact and bearing a serif at the upper end, e.g., Ed. V. l. 14.
5. j, which is mostly cursive possesses a loop in the middle, e.g. Ed. XIV, l. 22.
6. Amongst the Ashokan inscriptions only in these edicts do we find the forms of s' and s, e.g., Ed. XIII, l. 37 and Ed. XII. l. 31
7. No sign for r and n can be traced in this version. z and ya are sometimes written with only two strokes instead of the usual three strokes.

## Medial Vowels

The following peculiarities of medial vowels leading to later forms may be noticed:

1. Medial a is occasionally represented by a stroke placed over the top of the letter, e.g., sa Ed. XIV, l. 21 slanting downwards, e.g., sa
2. Medial e is sometimes marked by a slanting stroke placed over the top of the letter



THE BRAHMI ALPHABET OF NORTH WESTERN INDIA

3rd century B.C. to 6th century A.D.

3rd century B.C. to 8th century A.D. B.C.

~~The Brahmi Alphabet of it having a period (3rd century B.C. to 200 A.D.)~~

A. The MAURJAN ALPHABET

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A. ~~The MAURYAN ALPHABET~~

The earliest definitely datable records of ancient North Indian writing are the inscriptions of the Maurya emperor Ashoka engraved on rocks and pillars and found all over India. ~~The alphabet of these inscriptions is~~ Besides the ~~alphabet of these inscriptions is~~ records belonging to the

India. The alphabet of these inscriptions  
inscriptions of Ashoka several other records belonging to the  
Maurya period have been discovered in light from different parts  
of India. The alphabet used in all these records is the same.

The alphabet of the country parts of the country seen written in an alphabet known as the Brahmi alphabet. The upper limit of the use of this alphabet cannot be fixed with any certainty. The lower limit according to Bühler cannot be far distant from Ashoka's reign. The Sharada alphabet <sup>is</sup> said to have been derived from the Brahmi alphabet. The subject of our study was in fact the north western part of India. We shall examine the peculiarities leading to later developments.

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study was ~~forwards~~ <sup>confiner study</sup> the alphabet <sup>to the west</sup>  
of the sub-continent we shall ~~examine~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>been</sup> ~~leading~~ <sup>hierarchy</sup>  
of the ~~western~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~India~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~records~~ <sup>been</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>hierarchy</sup> ~~Haurya period~~  
of the alphabet used in the ~~Haurya~~ <sup>Haurya</sup> records, of the ~~Haurya~~ <sup>Haurya</sup> period  
~~coming from the north western part of the country.~~  
~~from the north western India~~

~~The Brahmi Alphabet of North Western India~~

~~The Brahmi Alphabet of North Western India~~

The Brahmi alphabet of the NW India of the Mauryan period is represented by:

— 45 basic letters

1. The Kalsi Rock Edicts
2. The Delhi-Topra pillar Edicts
3. The Mathura rock Inscription ~~of Ashoka~~
4. The Pathyar (Dist. Kangra H.P.) rock inscription.

1. The inscriptions of Ashoka found in the extreme north western part of ~~India~~ <sup>North Western part of India</sup> subcontinent are written in the Kharosthi and ~~Prakrit~~ <sup>Prakrit</sup> scripts of which distinct from the Brahmi.